-continued

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    290                 295                 300

Ser Ile Leu Pro Gly Ile Gly Ser Val Met Gly Ile Ala Asp Gly Ala
305                 310                 315                 320

Val His His Asn Thr Glu Glu Ile Val Ala Gln Ser Ile Ala Leu Ser
                325                 330                 335

Ser Leu Met Val Ala Gln Ala Ile Pro Leu Val Gly Glu Leu Val Asp
            340                 345                 350

Ile Gly Phe Ala Ala Tyr Asn Phe Val Glu Ser Ile Ile Asn Leu Phe
        355                 360                 365

Gln Val Val His Asn Ser Tyr Asn Arg Pro Ala Tyr Ser Pro Gly His
    370                 375                 380

Lys Thr Gln Pro Phe Glu Ala Ser Gly Gly Pro Glu Asn Ser Asp Ser
385                 390                 395                 400

Glu Cys Pro Leu Ser His Asp Gly Tyr Cys Leu His Asp Gly Val Cys
                405                 410                 415

Met Tyr Ile Glu Ala Leu Asp Lys Tyr Ala Cys Asn Cys Val Val Gly
            420                 425                 430

Tyr Ile Gly Glu Arg Cys Gln Tyr Arg Asp Leu Lys Trp Trp Glu Leu
        435                 440                 445

Arg
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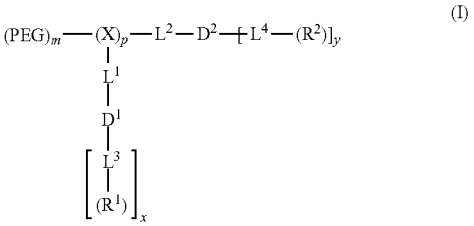
1. A compound of formula (I):



(I)

wherein

PEG is optionally present and is a polyethylene glycol moiety, wherein PEG has a molecular weight of 44 Da to 100 kDa;

X is optionally present and is a branched monomer unit;

each L^1 is independently optional and is a linker group;

each L^2 is independently optional and is a linker group;

each L^3 is independently optional and is a linker group;

each L^4 is independently optional and is a linker group;

D^1 is optional and is a dendritic polymer moiety having one or more branched monomer units (X), and a plurality of end groups;

D^2 is a dendritic polymer having one or more branched monomer units (X), and a plurality of end groups;

R^1 is optional and is an end group of the dendritic polymer and is independently at each occurrence in the compound selected from the group consisting of crosslinkable groups;

R^2 is an end group of the dendritic polymer and is independently at each occurrence in the compound selected from the group consisting of positively or negatively charged groups and neutral groups (e.g., polar groups: sugars, peptides, hydrophilic polymers, or hydrophobic groups: long-chain alkanes (C_1-C_{50}) and fatty acids (C_1-C_{50}), aromatic molecules, esters, halogens, nitrocompounds, anthracyclines, fluorocarbons, silicones, certain steroids such as cholesterol, terpenoids, vitamins, and polymers, and amphiphilic groups, cholic acid, riboflavin, chlorogenic acid), where at least one positively or negatively charged groups are present in R^2;

subscript x is an integer from 1 to 64, wherein subscript x is equal to the number of end groups on the dendritic polymer;

subscript y is an integer from 1 to 64, wherein subscript y is equal to the number of end groups on the dendritic polymer;

subscript p is an integer from 0 to 32; and

subscript m is an integer from 0 to 32.

2. The compound of claim **1**, wherein at each occurrence in the compound the branched monomer unit (X) is independently selected from the group consisting of a diamino carboxylic acid moiety, a dihydroxy carboxylic acid moiety, and a hydroxyl amino carboxylic acid moiety.

3. The compound of claim **2**, wherein at each occurrence in the compound the diamino carboxylic acid is independently selected from the group consisting of 2,3-diamino propanoic acid, 2,4-diaminobutanoic acid, 2,5-diaminopentanoic acid (ornithine), 2,6-diaminohexanoic acid (lysine), (2-Aminoethyl)-cysteine, 3-amino-2-aminomethyl propanoic acid, 3-amino-2-aminomethyl-2-methyl propanoic acid, 4-amino-2-(2-aminoethyl) butyric acid, and 5-amino-2-β-aminopropyl) pentanoic acid.

4. The compound of claim **2**, wherein the diamino carboxylic acid moiety is an amino acid moiety.

5. The compound of claim **1**, wherein each branched monomer unit X is lysine moiety.